We claim:

1. A tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage, the method comprising:

receiving first stage information and second stage

5   information, the first stage information and the second stage information input at the second stage;

processing the first stage information and the second stage information so that the first stage information is associated with the second stage information; and

10   storing the first stage information and the second stage information in a database, wherein

the stored first stage information and the stored second stage information are at least accessible at the second stage.

15   2. The tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the stored first stage information and the stored second stage information are accessible at the second stage and at

20 least one successive stage in the supply chain.

3. The tracking method for a supply chain having at least a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the first stage is a producer stage and the second stage
is a processing stage.

4. The tracking method for a supply chain having at least
a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 3,
wherein

the first stage information includes at least one of
producer name, producer address, producer phone number and
inventory information.

5. The tracking method for a supply chain having at least
a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 4,
wherein

the inventory information includes at least one of crop
type, crop variety, crop moisture, protein and test weight.

6. The tracking method for a supply chain having at least
a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 1,
wherein

the second stage information includes at least one of
planning data, storage data, milling data, packaging data,
data indicative of yields in production, finished product
storage data and shipping data.

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7. The tracking method for a supply chain having at least
a first stage and a second stage as set forth in claim 1,
wherein

    the first stage information is input at the second stage

5 because the first stage is a non-participant in a
transactional supply chain system and the second stage is a
participant in the transactional supply chain system.

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    8. A tracking method for a supply chain having at least a

10 first stage and a second stage, the method comprising:

    receiving first stage agricultural information and second
stage agricultural information, the first stage agricultural
information and the second stage agricultural information
input at the second stage;

15   processing the first stage agricultural information and
the second stage agricultural information so that the first
stage agricultural information is associated with the second
stage agricultural information; and

    storing the first stage agricultural information and the

20 second stage agricultural information in a database, wherein

    the stored first stage agricultural information and the
stored second stage agricultural information are at least
accessible at the second stage and at least one successive
stage in the supply chain,

and the first stage is one of a producer stage and a

processing stage, and the second stage is one of a processing

stage, a storage stage and a manufacturing stage.

5   9. A tracking method for a non-linear supply chain, the

method comprising:

recording a history of a first item traversing a first

path of the non-linear supply chain; and

recording a history of a second item traversing a second

10   path of the non-linear supply chain, wherein

the first path and the second path are a first output and

a second output, respectively, of a multi-output stage in the

non-linear supply chain.

15   10. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as

set forth in claim 9, wherein

the first path includes at least one multi-output stage,

the first item resulting from one of a plurality of outputs of

the multi-output stage along the first path.

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11. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as

set forth in claim 9, wherein

the second path includes at least one multi-output stage,

the second item resulting from one of a plurality of outputs

25   of the multi-output stage along the second path.

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12. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein recording the history of the first item includes

5   associating first information applying to a stage of the non-linear supply chain with the first item, the first information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information, and

associating second information applying to another stage

10 with the first item, the second information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information.

13. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as

15 set forth in claim 12, wherein

the other stage is the multi-output stage.

14. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein recording the history of the

20 second item includes

associating first information applying to a stage of the non-linear supply chain with the second item, the first information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information, and

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associating second information applying to another stage with the second item, the second information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information.

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15. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein recording the history of the first item includes

associating information applying to a stage of the non-10 linear supply chain with the first item, the information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information and, wherein

the recording of the history of the second item includes

associating the information applying to the stage of the 15 non-linear supply chain with the second item.

16. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as set forth in claim 9, wherein recording the history of the first item includes

20 associating first information applying to a stage of the non-linear supply chain with the first item, the first information including at least one of quantity information, performance information and quality information and

associating second information applying to another stage 25 with the first item, the second information including at least

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one of quantity information, performance information and

quality information, and wherein

the recording of the history of the second item includes

associating the first information applying to the stage

5 of the non-linear supply chain with the second item and

associating the second information applying to the other

stage with the second item.

17. The tracking method for a non-linear supply chain as

10 set forth in claim 12, further comprising:

transmitting the first information and the second

information to at least one individual of a plurality of

individuals within or outside the non-linear supply chain, the

first information and the second information informing the at

15 least one individual about the history of at least the first

item.

18. A tracking method for a non-linear supply chain, the

method comprising:

20 recording a history of a first item traversing a first

path of the non-linear supply chain by associating first

information applying to a first stage of the non-linear supply

chain with the first item, the first path including the first

stage and a second stage and the first information including

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at least one of quantity information, performance information
and quality information, and

associating second information applying to the second
stage with the first item, the second information including at

5   least one of quantity information, performance information and
quality information; and

recording a history of a second item traversing a second
path of the non-linear supply chain by associating the first
information applying to the first stage of the non-linear

10 supply chain with the second item, the second path including
the first stage a third stage, and

associating third information applying to the third stage
with the second item, the third information including at least
one of quantity information, performance information and

15 quality information; and

transmitting the first information, the second
information and the third information to at least one
individual of a plurality of individuals within or outside the
non-linear supply chain, the first information, the second

20 information and the third information informing the at least
one individual about the history of the first item and the
second item, wherein

the first stage is a multi-output stage having at least
outputs.

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